



**PACIFIC COUNTY –
NORTH WILLAPA
SHORELINE EROSION
MITIGATION
MASTER PLAN**

Willapa-Erosion-Mitigation-Master-Plan-Final-Final.pdf (wacoastalnetwork.com)

WECAN Briefing Meeting – August 14, 2024

Willapa Shoreline Erosion Mitigation Master Plan - Overview

In Collaboration with :



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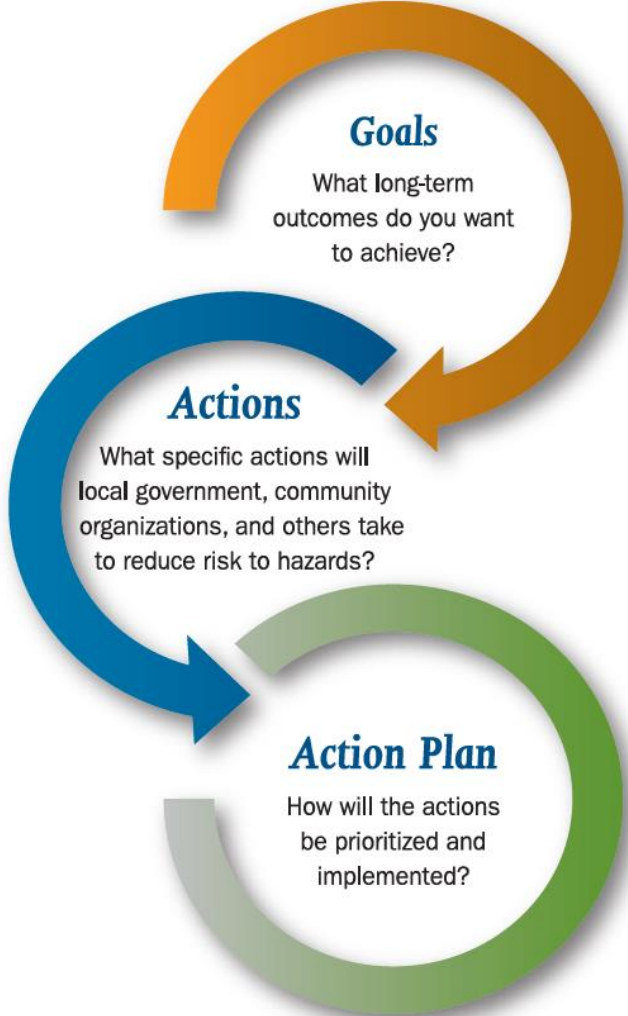


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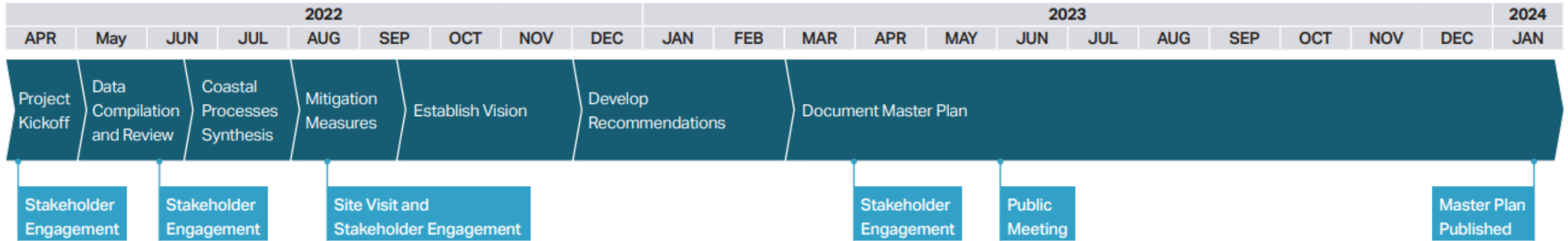
Master Plan Goals/Objectives/Aspirations

- Goal(s) (what long-term outcomes do you want to achieve):
 - Establish a vision, to maintain momentum and cohesion among various stakeholders.
 - Establish a long-term master plan (broadly supported by stakeholders) for mitigation of shoreline erosion along North Willapa shoreline and protection of built and natural assets against coastal hazards. The plan would be adaptable against climate change and would include specific actions in terms of monitoring, maintenance, strategy for pursuit of funding and permit applications.
- SMART Objectives (Measurable Outcome):
 - Compile and document previous/ongoing erosion mitigation efforts
 - Alignment of stakeholders on natural and built assets exposed to highest risk
 - Document purpose and need for shoreline erosion mitigation aligned with funding opportunities
 - Identify underlying cause of shoreline erosion
 - Document lessons learned from previous efforts
 - Increasing public awareness about risks associated with shoreline erosion
 - Informing public about the master plan (process and outcomes)
 - Identify reliable sources of funding and details of funding programs
 - Identify next steps/action plan (includes monitoring) for the Master Plan implementation
 - Master Plan Documentation
- Master Plan Aspirations:
 - Build consensus among stakeholders on a system-wide and coordinated plan of action
 - Align local and state resources, needs, and interests as much as possible to gain efficiencies



From FEMA Hazard Mitigation Guidebook (2012)

Project Planning Process



DATA COMPILATION AND REVIEW

OBJECTIVE

To develop a catalog of existing information building on the library compiled during Pacific County's Demonstration Project.

APPROACH

A detailed Request for Information (RFI) was sent to all project partners and the team compiled the information to be shared with public through a website.

COASTAL PROCESSES SYNTHESIS

OBJECTIVE

To compile existing characterization of coastal processes and potential causes of erosion and to identify data gaps/ unanswered questions.

APPROACH

This task was conducted by review of technical literature as well as discussions with subject matter experts with USACE, ECY, and WSDOT.

MITIGATION MEASURES

OBJECTIVE

To compile previously used mitigation measures, documenting performance and lessons learned to inform new mitigation approaches.

APPROACH

Develop a matrix of erosion mitigation options including cost estimates, maintenance requirements, and contingency measures to assess shoreline impacts. Review mitigation measures with stakeholders.

ESTABLISH VISION

OBJECTIVE

To define the overall vision for the study area to enable a coordinated, system-wide mitigation approach.

APPROACH

To define the overall vision for the coastline and surrounding areas to enable a coordinated, system-wide mitigation approach.

DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS

OBJECTIVE

To develop targeted, focused recommendations for further research that are applicable to potential mitigation measures.

APPROACH

Document common needs, desires, and data gaps with regard to erosion mitigation solutions. Provide initial recommendations for stakeholder review and outline funding pathways to fill research gaps.

DOCUMENT MASTER PLAN

OBJECTIVE

To produce a formal Master Plan document that encompasses findings from all previous steps in the project process to inform future activities.

APPROACH

Compile findings to summarize project needs, coastal setting, public outreach efforts, master plan recommendations, implementation strategies, and cost estimates in a single document.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

TRANSLATING COMMUNITY DESIRE

An integral part of the master plan has been working collaboratively with key stakeholders to understand various priorities and perspectives, translating the community's desires into actionable projects.

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT

- 20 representatives from key stakeholder groups were continuously engaged/updated throughout the process.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- One-on-one interviews were conducted with representatives of Drainage District, County, Tribe, WSDOT, USACE, and WSDOT.

TECHNICAL ADVISOR DISCUSSIONS

- Discussions were held with technical experts with USACE and WDOE.

SITE VISIT

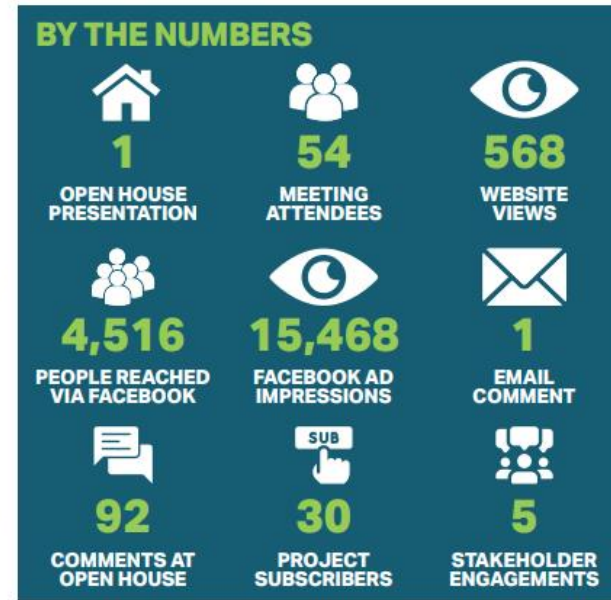
- A site visit was conducted with stakeholder committee members on August 17, 2022.

PUBLIC MEETING

- A public open house was held in early June of 2023 to seek input from the general public on the draft of the master plan.

This combination of meetings and online input yielded favorable results, both in terms of participation and clear community direction for the future of North Willapa Shoreline Erosion Mitigation.

Feedback from these various meetings with the stakeholders was able to be used and translated into clear community desires.



Consultant team and stakeholder committee members visited the site in summer of 2021 (Photograph courtesy of Henry Bell with Department of Ecology)



- Identify unknown information (i.e., causes of erosion)
- Identify internal organizational needs for long-term cohesion
- Tell the story to the public
- Align the need to mitigate risks with funding options
- Importance of nature based systems for a long term solution
- Working together is critical for community success to mitigate the erosion risks
- Avoid maintenance (debris buildup) of SR 105
- Find a Holistic Solution

COMMUNITY DESIRES

The Project Team sought input from the stakeholder committee about their desired long-term outcomes and overarching desires of the master plan. In working together, the stakeholders identified the needs that would best represent themselves and the surrounding community.

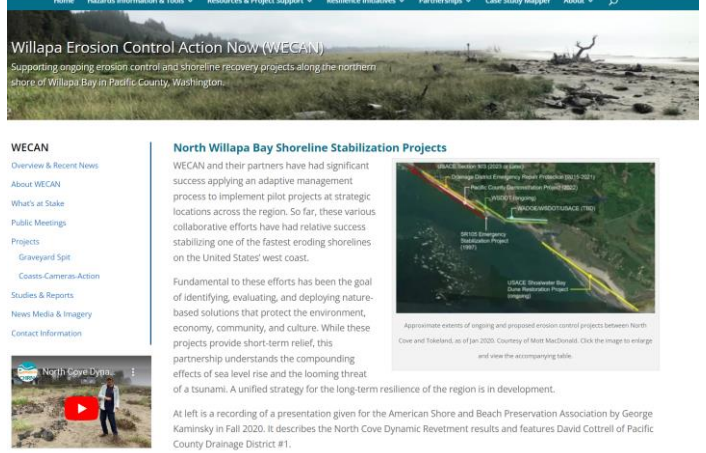
Summary of Findings & Recommendations - 1

Topic

- Coastal Erosion Coordinator for Erosion Mitigation Planning, Funding, & Monitoring Efforts

Summary of Findings

- **Lead Coordinator**
- **Community Collaboration**
- **Coordination of Ongoing Plans**
- **Study Area Wide Approach** for dynamic revetment to work properly



Lead Entity & Continual Coordination & Collaboration is critical

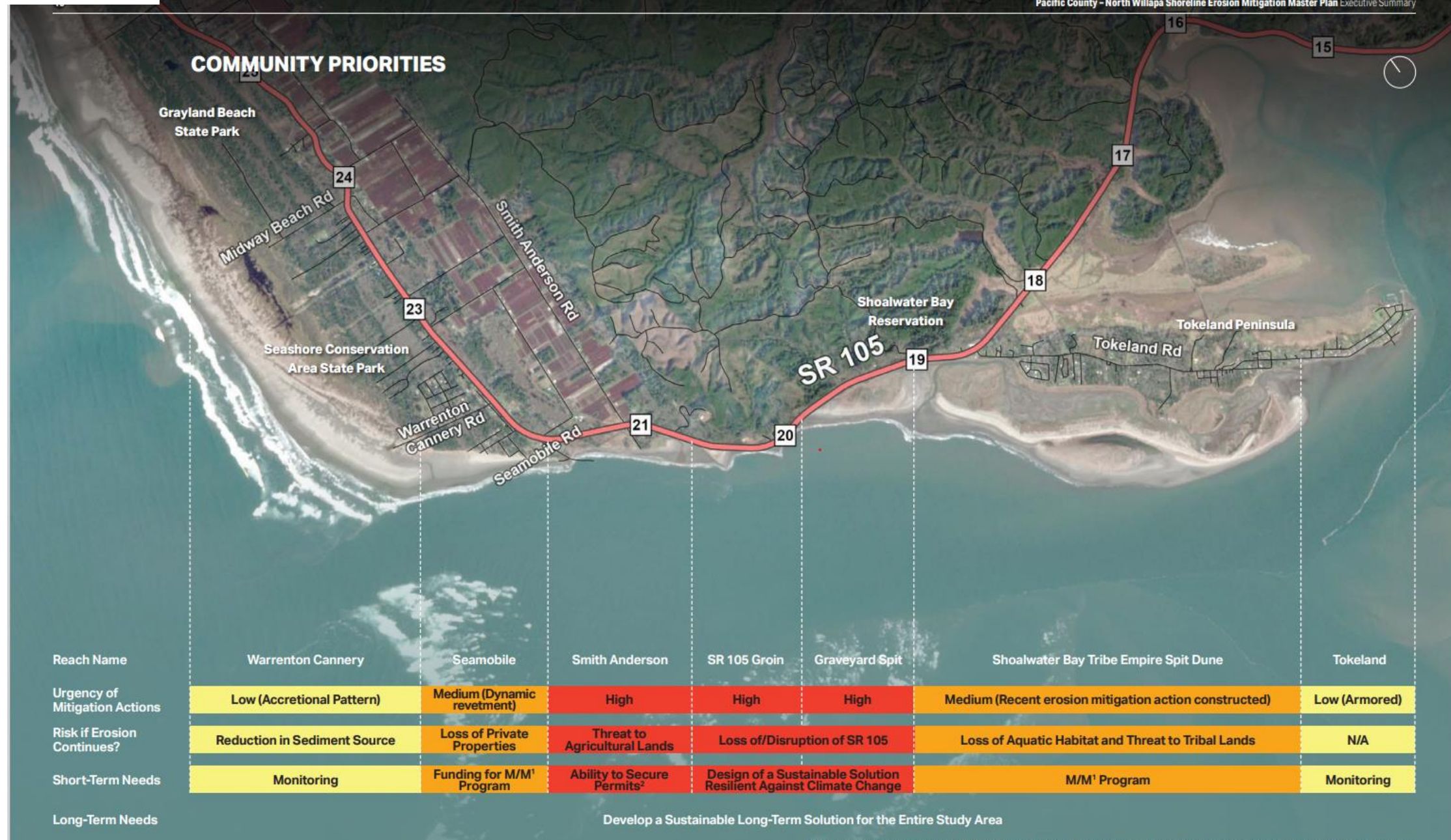
- North Cove Study Area Holistic Solutions



CHAMPION/LEAD COORDINATOR



Community Priorities



Notes: 1=Monitoring/Maintenance; 2=Ability to Secure Permits for Maintenance Repair in a Timely Manner plus Funding for Design of a Sustainable Solution

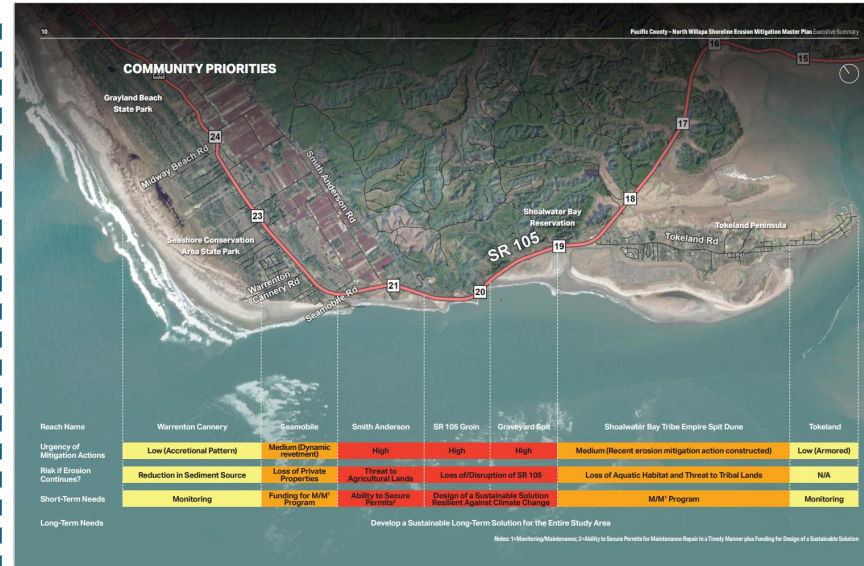
Summary of Findings & Recommendations - 2

Topic

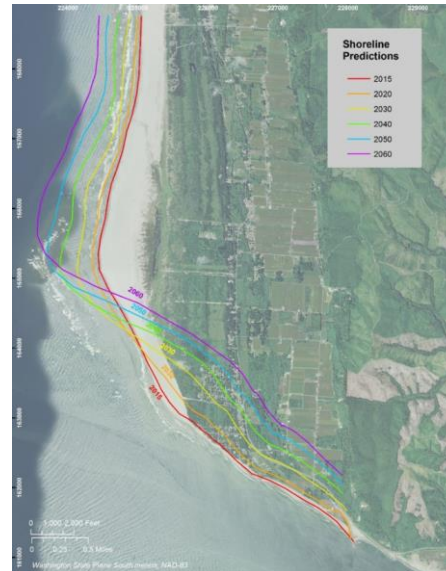
- Erosion Protection Needs
- Assets At Risk

Summary of Findings

- Demonstration Project Performance** – good results on 35% of study area
- Areas of Critical Need** – 75% of shoreline in critical need
- Erosion Protection Systems** – 75% nature based/25% some combination TBD methods
- Community Lifelines** – Health, Medical, Power, Schools
- Flood Protection of Agricultural Lands**
- Public Roads** – SR105
- Tribal Lands** – Risk of Loss
- Estuary Habitat**



Criticality of Action by Reach



Erosion Risks



Vulnerability of Community Lifelines

OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCELERATE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: A ROADMAP FOR CLIMATE PROGRESS, THRIVING NATURE, EQUITY, & PROSPERITY


A REPORT TO THE NATIONAL CLIMATE TASK FORCE
NOVEMBER 2022

Nature Based Solutions



Coastal Processes & Multihazards

- Waves
- Estuarine Tidal Hydrodynamics
- Geomorphologic Processes



Erosion

Erosion is the wearing away of land, such as loss of riverbank, beach, shoreline, or dune material. It is measured as the rate of change in the position or displacement of a riverbank or shoreline over a period of time. Short-term erosion typically results from periodic natural events, such as flooding, hurricanes, storm surge, and windstorms, but may be intensified by human activities. Long-term erosion is a result of multi-year impacts such as repetitive flooding, wave action, sea level rise, sediment loss, subsidence, and climate change. Death and injury are not typically associated with erosion; however, it can destroy buildings and infrastructure.



Storm Surge

A storm surge is a large dome of water, often 50 to 100 miles wide, that rises anywhere from 4 to 5 feet in a Category 1 hurricane and up to more than 30 feet in a Category 5 storm. Storm surge arrives prior to a hurricane's landfall, and the greater the hurricane's intensity, the sooner the surge arrives. Storm surge can be devastating to coastal regions, causing flooding, severe beach erosion, and property damage along the immediate coast. Furthermore, water can rise very rapidly due to storm surge, posing a serious threat to people remaining in inundation areas.




Flood

A flood is the partial or complete inundation of normally dry land. The various types of flooding include riverine flooding, coastal flooding, and shallow flooding. Common impacts of flooding include damage to personal property, buildings, and infrastructure; bridge and road closures; service disruptions; and injuries or even fatalities.



Multiple Hazards

The actions presented here are general actions that mitigate multiple hazards.



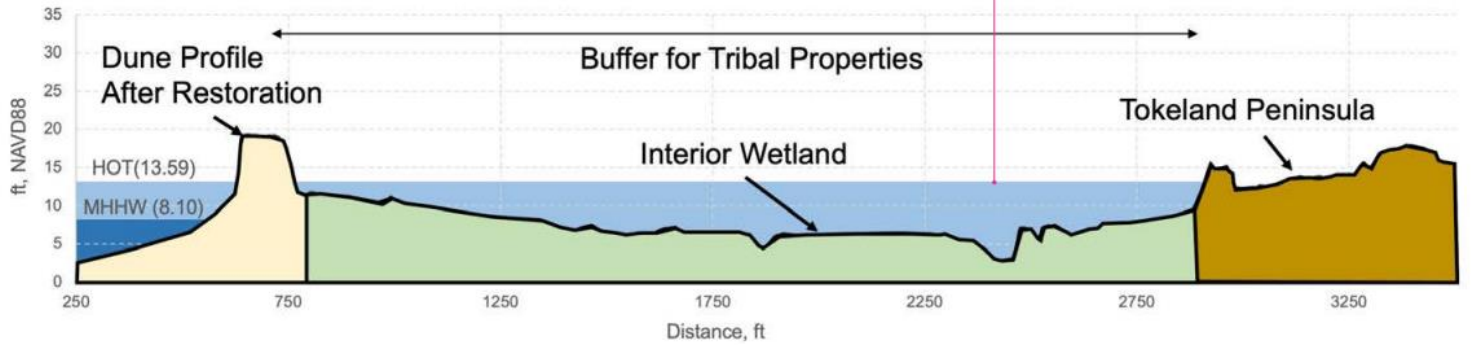
Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise causes land loss in low-lying coastal areas, such as coastal wetlands and barrier islands, and occurs at the highest rates where land is already subsiding. Sea level rise also exacerbates erosion and flooding as new areas become vulnerable to storm surge, wave action, and tides.¹ Climate change models predict that sea level risk will accelerate in the next century. This could result in billions of dollars in losses.

Community Assets at Risk



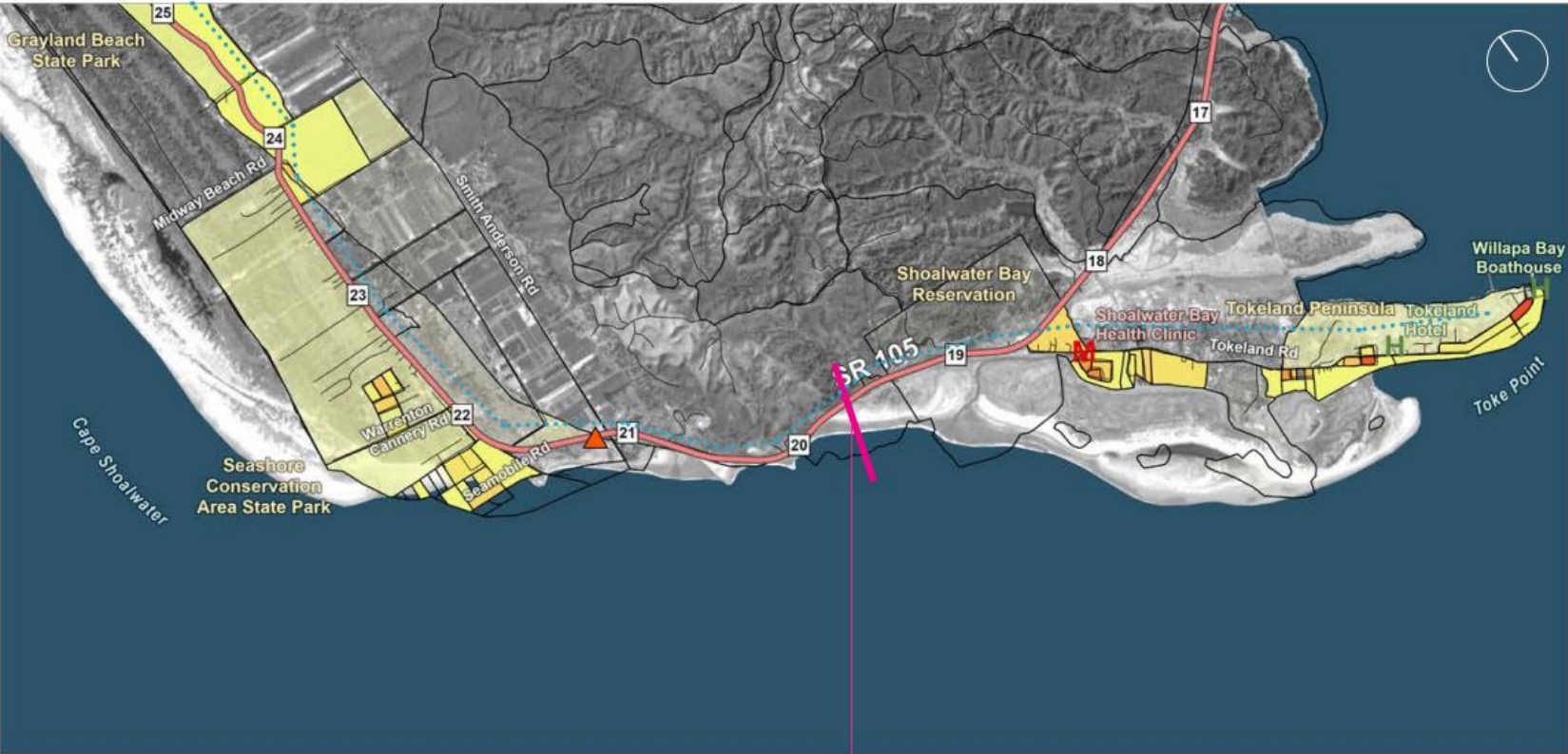
- M** Medical
- H** Historic Properties
- Roadways**
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Other Roads
- SR-105
- Census Blocks, 2000 Population Density**
- 0.0 Persons/Acre
- 8.0 Persons/Acre



Community Assets at Risk



- Powerline
- ▲ Tide Gate
- M Medical
- H Historic Properties
- Roadways
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Other Roads
- SR 105
- Census Blocks, 2010 Population Density
- 0.0 Persons/Acre
- 8.0 Persons/Acre

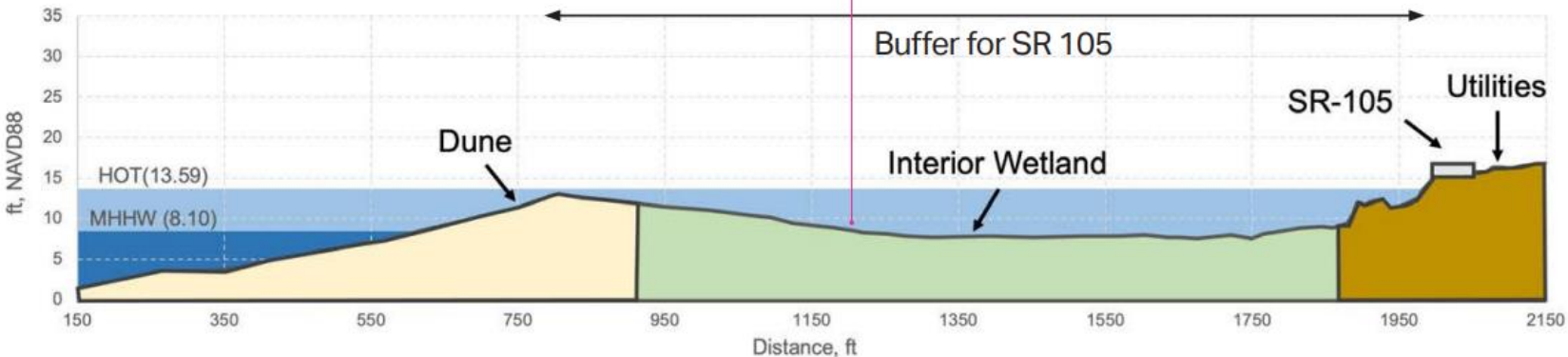


COMMUNITY LIFELINES AT RISK

TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR

SCHOOLS

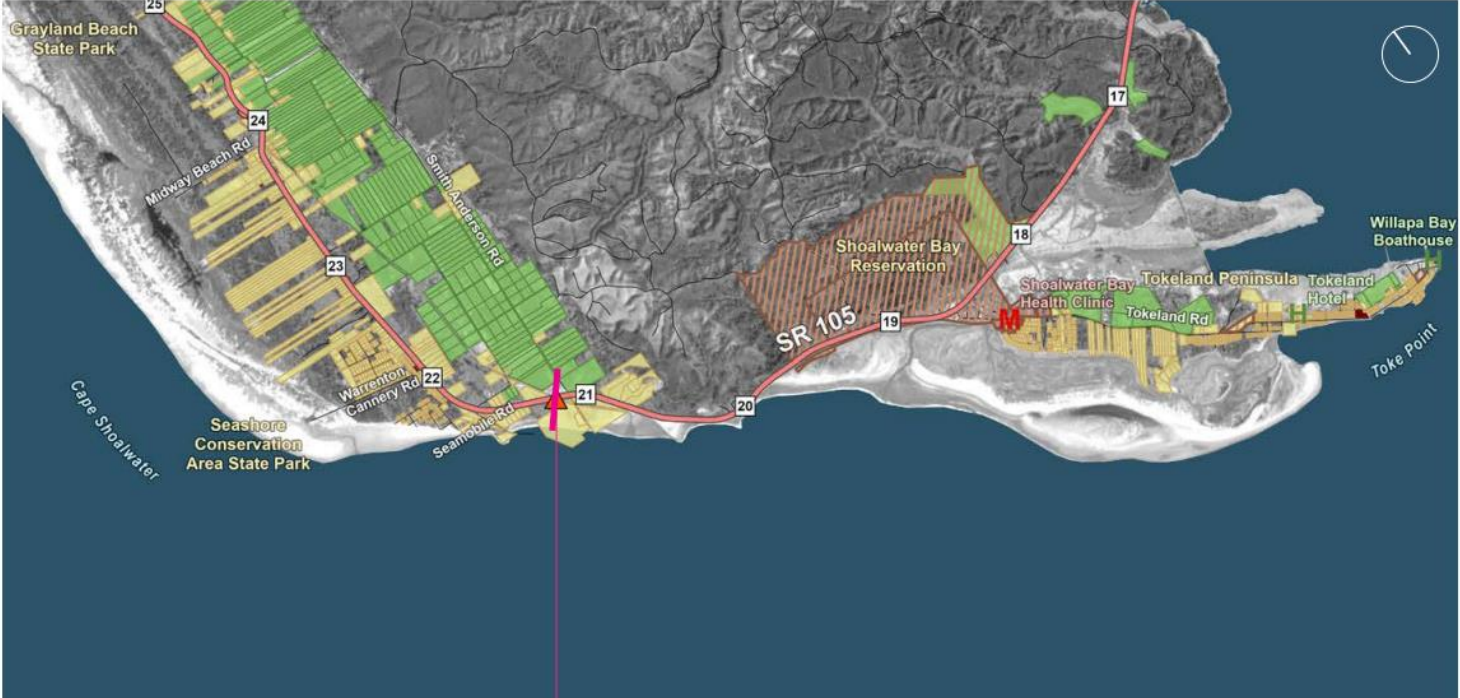
SAFETY AND SECURITY



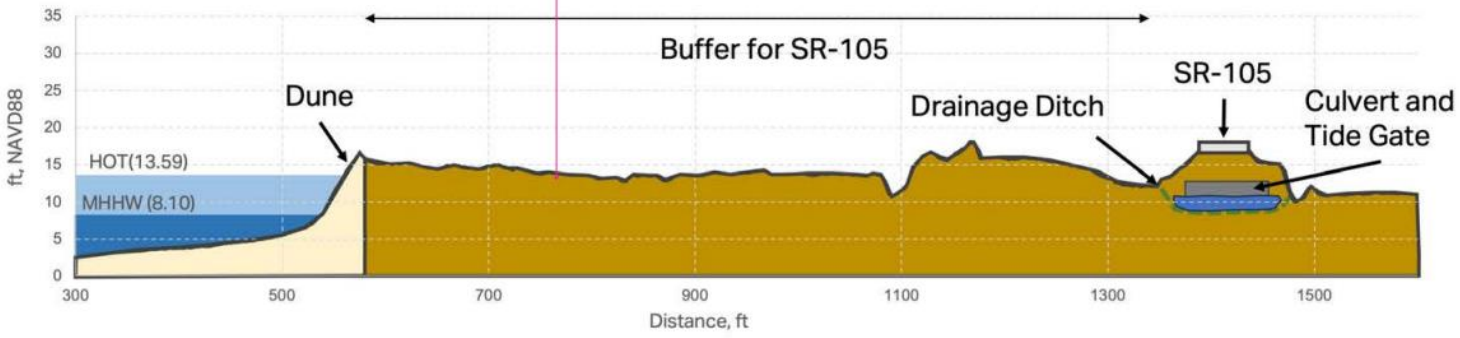
Community Assets at Risk



- ▲ Tide Gate
- Agricultural
- Residential
- Commercial
- Tribal Lands
- M Medical
- H Historic Properties
- Roadways
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Other Roads
- SR 105



Saltwater intrusion from a tide gate failure would permanently render these farm unusable for the cranberry farming for the next decade. Once the salt had leached out and they became farmable it would take > \$50 million to renovate, replant and restore them to their present farm value.



The Plan



Summary of Findings & Recommendations 3

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Summary of Findings</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intergovernmental Collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum of Understanding – assist for funding requests Update Pacific County Hazard Mitigation Plan – true up HMP with Master Plan to match need, risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific County Bldg Moratorium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically update Building Moratorium – reflect dynamic nature of erosion and flood hazards in the study area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Funding Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing Resources - Staff Capacity constrained for many partners, pursue funding to partially fund position

Interlocal Agreement
Memorandum of Understanding



Staff & Volunteer Resource constraints....Funding to assist as a
Coordinator, Collaborator, Organizer, Repository, Facilitator, **Dedicated Grant Organizer**

Summary of Findings & Recommendations 3

- Use as a template for each project area grant pursuit and discussions with agencies and legislative delegations

APPENDIX G: EXAMPLE OF TWO-PAGERS – GRAVEYARD SPIT

SR 105 / Graveyard Spit Dynamic Revetment and Dune Restoration

On behalf of the local communities of North Cove, Tokeland, Pacific County, the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and Willapa Erosion Control Action Now (WECAN), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), WA Department of Ecology, and USACE have finalized the design and permitting for the Graveyard Spit Restoration and Resilience Project (June 2022) and are seeking funding for construction of the design.

The Graveyard Spit Restoration and Resilience Project represents a collaborative solution to address ongoing coastal hazards and improve community and regional resilience. The project team has been working together through a collaborative locally led forum, Willapa Erosion Control Action Now (WECAN), to address severe erosion, flooding, and sea level rise since 2015.



Community Lifelines



The long-term coastal erosion rates at Graveyard Spit are some of the highest of any coastline in the mainland U.S., with up to 107 feet of shoreline loss per year.

This rapid coastal erosion represents a significant hazard to State Route (SR) 105, the sole transportation route serving local communities of Tokeland and North Cove, and the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Reservation that provides access to medical facilities, residential areas, and agricultural lands.

The Graveyard Spit Project will advance community resilience goals to provide vital coastal hazard mitigation for State Route 105, ensuring the region's primary transportation, utility, and emergency access corridor remains functional.

Hazards

- › Coastal Erosion
- › Flooding
- › Sea Level Rise
- › Storm Surge



Photo: WA Department of Transportation

SR 105 / Graveyard Spit Dynamic Revetment and Dune Restoration

Details

Project Owner
Washington State Department of Transportation

Type of Project
Nature-Based Shoreline Protection

Area of Impact
Graveyard Spit, WA and surrounding communities. SR 105 between mile posts 19.50 to 20.10.

Key Partnerships

This project is part of local communities' regional effort to find a holistic solution to address impacts to life, property, safety, economy, and the environment on the north shore of Willapa Bay.

Ecology and WSDOT have been leading the Graveyard Spit Project because the communities of the region lack the staff capacity and resources to seek funding for this project on their own. This a common challenge for communities within Pacific County, Wahkiakum County, and across Washington's Pacific Coast.

Benefits

Reduced physical damage to transportation infrastructure from erosion and flood events

Reduced loss of service to critical transportation infrastructure

Reduced loss of service to surrounding community from road closures

Critical habitat benefits including dune, wetland, and marsh restoration for ESA listed shorebirds

Cost

At a total cost of approximately \$30 million, this project was found to be the most comprehensive and cost-effective solution to address erosion and flooding risks in this area based upon a 2015 analysis of alternatives by WSDOT and a feasibility study by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2018.

Construction Timeline and Funding

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is anticipated to be complete Summer 2023 and construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2024.

Through a combination of federal funding programs, the project has received approximately \$15 million in grant funding for Phase 1 construction, environmental monitoring, and maintenance rock. WSDOT is pursuing approximately \$15 million to complete Phase 2 of construction.

We have several policy improvements we would like to share with the D.C. Office based on our experiences working with local communities through efforts such as the Resilience Action Demonstration Project (RAD).

The RAD project piloted a coordinated agency assistance program to work directly with communities to support local capacity. The RAD Final Report includes a series of recommendations for improving coastal hazards resilience in Washington State, focusing on increasing local capacity and enhancing state assistance to coastal communities and Tribes.

Resources & References

- › [Willapa Erosion Control Action Now](#)
- › [Graveyard Spit Restoration and Resilience Project](#)
- › [2015 WSDOT Alternatives Analysis](#)
- › [2018 USACE Feasibility Study](#)
- › [Resilience Action Demonstration Project \(RAD\)](#)
- › [RAD Final Report](#)

Summary of Findings & Recommendations 4

Topic

Summary of Findings

- Existing Shoreline Protection Systems Maintenance

- Maintenance Funding** – Dedicated funding to maintain dynamic revetment and other constructed features

- Shoreline Monitoring Program

- Project Area Annual Monitoring**– Needed for long term success

- Funding & Resources** – Secure funding to ensure seasonal surveys are conducted

- Data Repository** – Need dedicated location to upload and share data

- Streamlining Regulatory Permitting Processes for Shoreline Maintenance

- Maintenance Permits** – Need quick response to repair/maintain

- Programmatic Approvals** - Facilitate ease of maintenance or project permits in reach

Sustainable Funding



Maintenance



WECAN

- Overview & Recent News
- About WECAN
- What's at Stake
- Public Meetings
- Projects
- Graveyard Spit
- Coasts-Cameras-Action
- Studies & Reports
- News Media & Imagery
- Contact Information

Scientific Studies and Technical Reports

Comprehensive & Background

Pacific County – North Willapa Erosion Mitigation Plan. Developed by Moffatt & Nicholl for Pacific County. Funded by FEMA Cooperative Technical Partners (CTP) Program. Published January 2024.

The complex erosion issues facing North Willapa are addressed through nine Focus Areas, each of which is described in detail within the document. Topics covered include history of the region, overview and purpose of the planning project, hazards and impacts, erosion mitigation efforts, monitoring, funding, implementation plan, and summary of findings.

North Cove: A Coastal Community vs the Pacific Ocean – Story Map. Washington Department of Ecology Coastal Monitoring and Analysis Program, June 4, 2020.

This story map comprehensively describes the history of North Cove, from the early stages of erosion up through the recent and ongoing mitigation work. It contains many figures, photographs, and other visuals that assist in illustrating the scope of the issues faced, the studies conducted to understand them, and mitigation projects undertaken to address them.

Economic Assessments

The Economic Toll of a Disappearing Community. Kevin Decker, Washington Sea Grant, January 2018.

This report briefly summarizes the economic impacts of erosion experienced in the North Cove area to date. It also contains projections of additional economic impacts of erosion out to 2050 if nothing is done to stabilize the shoreline.

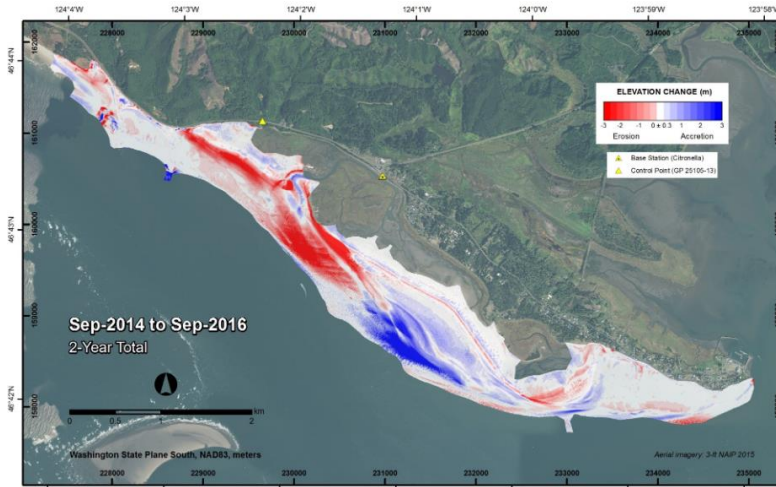
Economic Assessment of Erosion and Tidal Inundation Impacts to the Grayland Cranberry Industry. Kim Patton, Washington State University, 2019.

This brief summarizes the economic impacts to the Grayland cranberry farming industry that would occur if the bogs experienced sustained tidal inundation with seawater as a result of a major erosion inundation event. Following such an event, it would take more than \$50 million to renovate, replant, and restore the bogs to their present farm value.

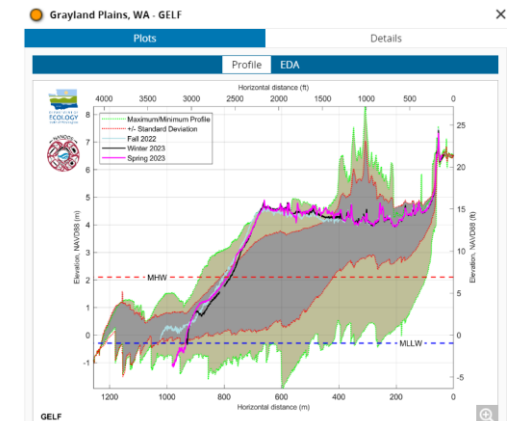
Project Documents & Technical Analyses

Graveyard Spit Restoration & Resilience Project plans and materials

- Visit the Graveyard Spit project webpage.



Monitoring



Data Repository



WASHINGTON STATE
Joint Aquatic Resources Permit
Application (JARPA) Form^{1,2} [\[help\]](#)



Ease of Permits for Maintenance

GRANT FUNDING – OPPORTUNITIES



INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION

Intergovernmental collaboration is already well established in the area. Pacific County, WA Department of Ecology, WA Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are all involved in an ongoing collaborative process to address hazard mitigation needs. This synergy across multiple agencies and levels of government can be utilized to both cast a wide net in terms of securing grant funding and strengthening individual applications.



COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIA

Collaboration with local or regional academic institutions can strengthen grant applications as findings can be used to inform future projects in the region, increasing the chance of successful, cost effective efforts. Major research institutions such as the University of Washington and Oregon State University have initiated research on topics such as the dynamics of Willapa Bay Inlet as well as dynamic revetments, providing a strong opportunity for future collaboration.



PUBLIC SUPPORT

Strong public support is often a key driver in securing grant funding to move projects forward. Shoreline erosion is a highly visible hazard among local communities, who have been experiencing impacts for decades, and thus the public is well aware of the importance of effective erosion hazard mitigation. This public support has been demonstrated across multiple outreach efforts to date.



LEVERAGE LOCAL/STATE \$\$ TO SECURE FEDERAL GRANTS

Federal grant opportunities, which can provide the largest funding source for potential projects, often require some degree of local or state funding match.

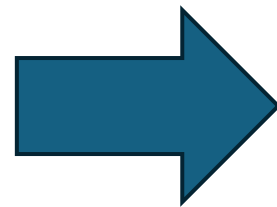
Using additional local or state grant funding to help meet this match requirement can significantly reduce the potential financial burden of meeting the federal match requirement. Existing collaboration among local and state agencies means projects will be well positioned to fully leverage any state or local grant funds into additional federal funding.

Partners & Project Team

- Great Collaboration, participation and assistance

Special Thank you...

- George Kaminsky
- David Cattrell (in memory)
- WECAN – Connie & Kelly



PROJECT TEAM AND PARTNERS

PROJECT SPONSOR



PROJECT TEAM



moffatt & nichol

IN COLLABORATION WITH



PROJECT PARTNERS

Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
Pacific County Drainage District #1
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District
Pacific Conservation District
Washington Sea Grant
WA State Department of Ecology
WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife
WA State Department of Transportation

PROJECT PARTNER



FEMA

Cooperative Technical Partners (CTP)
Program

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Charlene Nelson, Earl Davis, Larissa Pfleeger; Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
Chris Behrens, David Michalsen, Aurora Deangelis Caban, Janet C Curran; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
David Cottrell; Pacific County Drainage District and Cranberry Growers
Kelly Rupp and Connie Allen; WECAN and Pacific County Planning Commission
Chelsey Martin, Garrett Jackson, and Chad Hancock; WA Department of Transportation
George Kaminsky, Henry Bell, and Bobbak Talebi; WA Department of Ecology
Mike Nordin; Pacific Conservation District
Jackson Blalock; WA Sea Grant
Rebecca Chaffee; Community Member
Lauren Bauernschmidt; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife



**PACIFIC COUNTY –
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SHORELINE EROSION
MITIGATION
MASTER PLAN**

Willapa-Erosion-Mitigation-Master-Plan-Final-Final.pdf (wacoastalnetwork.com)

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Willapa Shoreline Erosion Mitigation Master Plan - Overview

In Collaboration with :



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MOTT
MACDONALD

M

THE
WATERSHED
COMPANY

Case Study

Case Study

- Large Coastal Zone Erosion Hazard Planning
 - Multi-jurisdictional
 - Federal Interest
 - Long History of collaboration and addressing shoreline erosion
-
- Case Study not for remedy (slightly different) but program is applicable as a Prototype for discussion and strategic planning



Bogue Banks

Master Beach Nourishment Plan

Carteret County, North Carolina



HISTORICAL PROJECTS

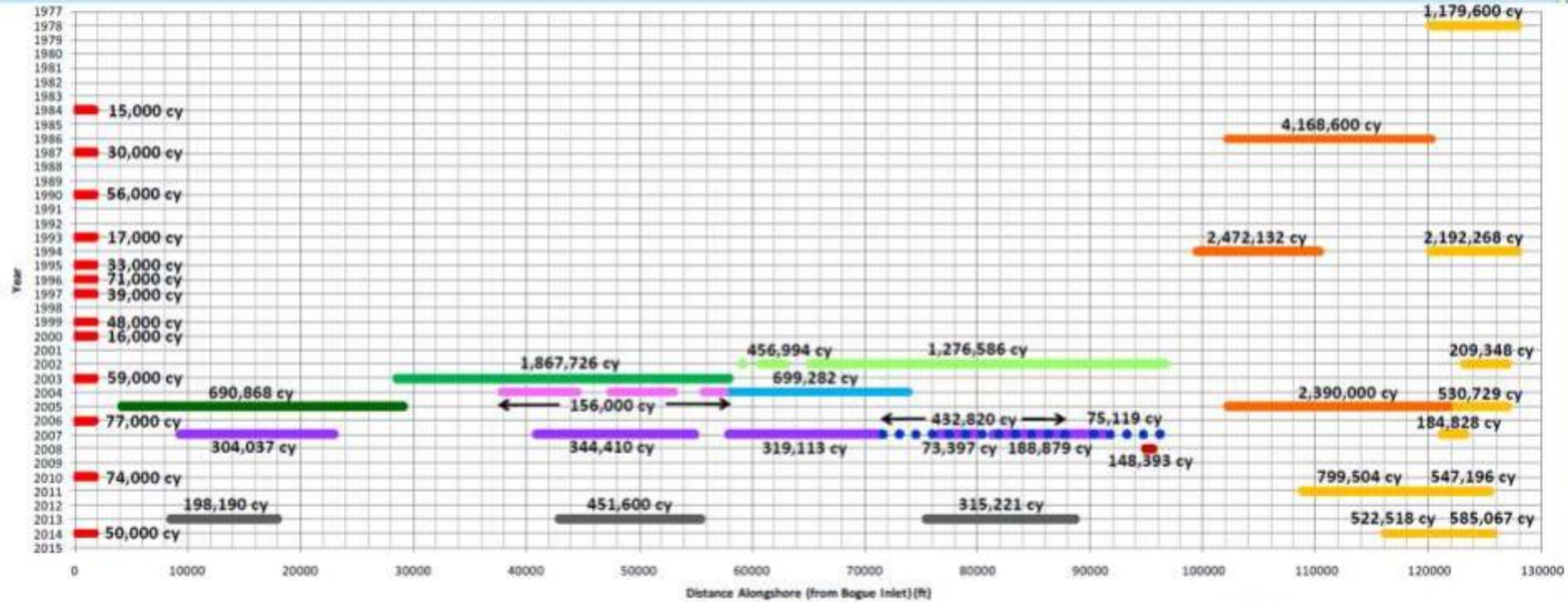
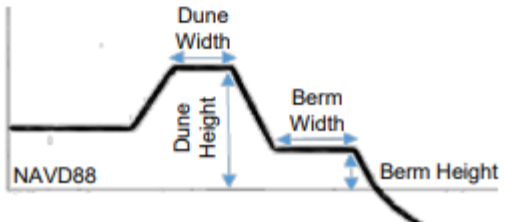


Case Study

Bogue Banks is a 25-mile long barrier island on the southeastern coast of NC. The island is situated at the southern boundary of North Carolina's 'Crystal Coast', a significant visitor destination which attracts people from every state in the nation.

The shoreline along Bogue Banks consists of a two-part system:

- Berm - the flat region of the beach between the dune and the water line.
- Dune - an elevated section of the beach profile that serves to protect structures from increased water levels during storm events.



Bogue Banks Beach Nourishment Projects 1978-2014

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bogue Inlet AIWW Crossing Disposal ■ AIWW Tangent B Disposal ■ MCH Inner Harbor Maintenance Dredge Disposal ■ Brandt Island Pump-Out ■ Bogue Banks Restoration - Phase I ■ Bogue Banks Restoration - Phase II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bogue Banks Restoration - Phase III ■ Section 933 - Phase I ■ Section 933 - Phase II ■ FEMA Post-Isabel Restoration ■ FEMA Post-Ophelia Restoration ■ Post-Irene Restoration
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Project Purpose and Need

Project Purpose

- Establish a regional plan facilitating the authorization and scheduling of Bogue Banks' shoreline nourishment/maintenance events
- Provide long-term shoreline stabilization and an equivalent level of protection along Bogue Banks' 25-mile oceanfront/inlet shorelines
- Provide long-term protection to Bogue Banks' tourism industry, state and local infrastructure, and oceanfront or adjacent structures
- Maintain natural resources and associated recreational uses while avoiding and minimizing adverse environmental impacts to the extent feasible

Need for Town Concurrence/Approval of Plan

Permitting Agencies Required Interlocal Agreement as Part of Master Plan

- Agencies desired single point of contact for future permitting of individual projects
- Managing the island's shoreline as an entire system is preferred
- Staging and scheduling of projects for individual municipalities will be more predictable
- Combine FEMA maintenance plan and static line into a single uniform nourishment strategy
- Town concurrence/approval of master plan is integral part of interlocal agreement signed by County/Towns

Project Purpose and Need

Project Purpose - (cont'd)

- Consolidate individual Town/County resources for managing the beaches in a more cost & logistically effective way and reduce/eliminate the time and need for individual authorizations

Need for Project

- A need exists to formulate and implement a Bogue Banks regional, long-term, and self-sustaining oceanfront/inlet shoreline protection program which involves consolidating resources from the County and all municipalities on Bogue Banks in the most effective financial and logistical manner.

Regulatory Permitting Strategies?

- Should some form of a programmatic regulatory process be considered? Would assist with grant funding pursuits, individual project permitting and future maintenance permitting.



What Is the Difference Between a Programmatic and a Project-Level Environmental Impact Statement?

A *programmatic* environmental impact statement (PEIS) evaluates the effects of broad proposals or planning-level decisions that may include any or all of the following:

- A wide range of individual projects;
- Implementation over a long timeframe; and/or
- Implementation across a large geographic area.

The level of detail in a PEIS is sufficient to allow informed choice among planning-level alternatives and to develop broad mitigation strategies. Collaboration among Federal, State, and local agencies and Tribes is especially important in a PEIS process.

The PEIS does not evaluate project-level issues such as precise project footprints or specific design details that are not yet ready for decision at the planning level. Instead, a PEIS is an excellent means for examining the interaction among proposed projects or plan elements, and for assessing cumulative effects. Like a project-level EIS, a PEIS also includes a “no action alternative.”

Typically, a PEIS is followed by subsequent project-level environmental reviews in the form of an EIS, Environmental Assessment, or Categorical Exclusion Checklist, for specific components of the proposal. When a project-level environmental review is undertaken for a specific component, the stepwise approach to analyses and decisionmaking is called “tiering.”